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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FRONT VIEW OF MONUMENT . . . . . *Frontispiece*

FRONT TABLET OF MONUMENT . . . . . *Page* 5

BUST OF SHAKESPEARE (FRONT VIEW) . . . . . „ 7

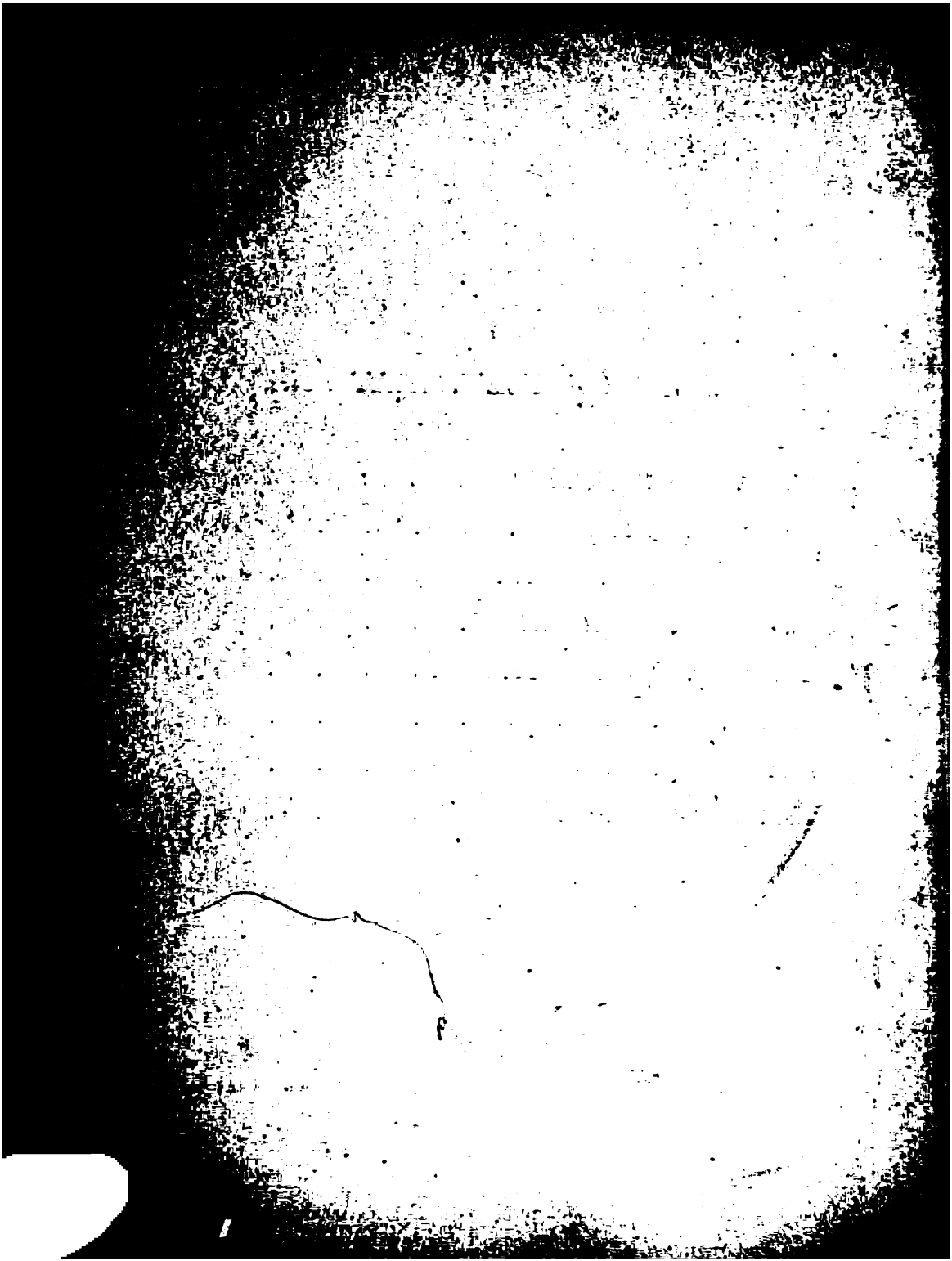
„ „ (PROFILE) . . . . . „ 9

LEFT TABLET. ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC . . . . . „ 17

RIGHT „ . . . . . „ 19

BACK „ . . . . . „ 25

THE FIRST FOLIO . . . . . „ 25



PREFACE

[illegible] are a slight attempt to [illegible] [illegible]ssed the writer to erect a [illegible] [illegible]hn Heminge and Henry Condell [illegible] [illegible]tors of Shakespeare, who several [illegible] [illegible]ted and published his dramas in [illegible] [illegible] original copies."

[illegible] a memorial to these men should have [illegible] inscription, but wide inquiry showed [illegible]rian scholars well knew their merits and [illegible] owe to them, their names are almost [illegible]ality of readers; and of their merits, not [illegible] of English-speaking men was conscious. [illegible] arisen in consequence of most of the Works of Shakespeare being without the Preface signed by Heminge and Condell, [illegible] First Folio of 1623; and in biographies [illegible]ich may be attached to the later editions, [illegible]mply alluded to as having published his [illegible]mes are almost unknown. But, as will be [illegible] to them is of such inestimable value that if

PREFACE

[illegible] are to be erected to our public benefactors [illegible] worthy to be commemorated than Heminge [illegible] Condell, to whom alone the world is indebted for this [illegible] of what it calls "Shakespeare." Their own story [illegible] which moved them to publish this collection [illegible] a beautiful instance of unselfishness, singular love of [illegible], and unaffected modesty, that the writer felt it [illegible] to become well understood by the public for [illegible] to be appreciated. The most certain way to [illegible] this desirable result was to erect a monument to [illegible] and Condell to be before the public eye. The [illegible] hopes that this explanation will be counted a sufficient [illegible] for his attempt to do honour to the memory of these [illegible] English worthies so long neglected.

It only remains for him to thank the Rev. C. C. Collins, [illegible] vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, for the [illegible] in which he assisted in the work, and for his [illegible] in the Registers and Parish books which have enabled the statements made of their relations to the parish to be verified. His thanks are also given to Dr. Furnivall, the founder and director of the New Shakspere Society, whose great and critical knowledge of all relating to the Bard of Avon has been freely given when required.

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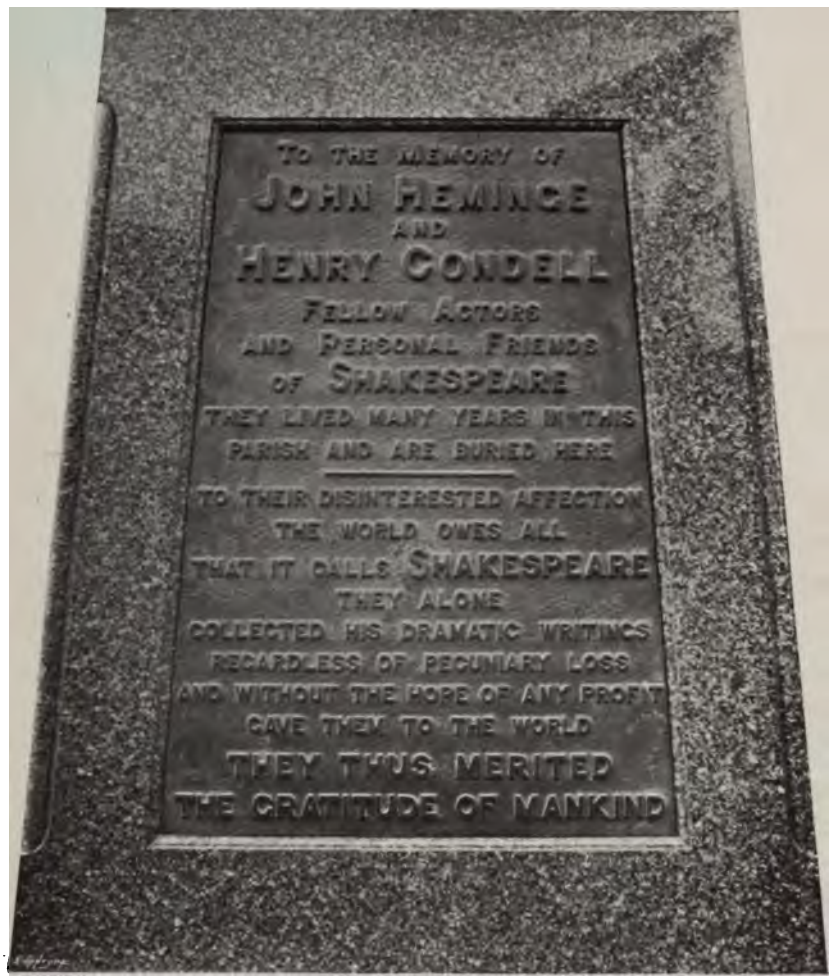

FRONT TABLET.

[illegible]NGE AND HENRY CONDELL

[illegible] FELLOWS OF SHAKESPEARE [illegible]

[illegible]—the greatest British [illegible] lies in his grave in Westminster [illegible] Shakespeare were planed by his [illegible] brotherhood, being unable to speak [illegible] move him to bring this volume [illegible] to words expressing the thoughts [illegible] fully regarded this volume, both [illegible] as too sacred to be any more [illegible] buried his treasured Shakespeare which [illegible] attracted public attention, and [illegible] the Victorian Laureate always spoke [illegible] the greatest of all poets; and said that [illegible] form an idea of the intellectual efforts [illegible] state of mind being comprehensible to [illegible] of mind and feeling that found expression [illegible] dramas, he could form no conception what[illegible]are was the master at whose feet he [illegible]

[illegible]early three centuries since the volume we [illegible]" appeared before the world. Age has

[illegible] its brightness; Time has proved its [illegible]. There is probably no other masterpiece of [illegible] which in the circumstances of its evolution has [illegible] a more remarkable history; and for the possession of [illegible] treasure we are indebted to two men well known to Shakespearian scholars; but by ninety-nine out of every hundred persons of the present day who read Shakespeare their names have never been heard of. They are John Heminge and Henry Condell.

To those who have investigated all that is known of the drama of that period, it has always appeared extraordinary that Shakespeare—one of the numerous family of a plain tradesman, who, with his wife, could not write their names—with his limited early education at Stratford-on-Avon, and his subsequently active career, should have produced such a remarkable set of compositions as his plays. Although much has been discovered by research that was not known a century since, yet the wonder still remains. This is the origin of those strange attempts to father the poet's plays on Lord Bacon, notwithstanding the testimony of the ablest actors—like Sir Henry Irving—that none but an accomplished master of the stage could have produced them, which Bacon was not. But while we are unable fully to explain their production in such circumstances as developed Shakespeare, we have no such difficulty in showing to whom we are indebted for the preservation of his writings. Yet although they are more extensively read than ever, and the interesting spots in his native town are visited by increasing numbers from all parts of the

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BUST OF SHAKESPEARE.

[illegible] Theatre with

[illegible] a more [illegible] treasure [illegible] Shakespearian [illegible] to [illegible] hundred [illegible] age. [illegible] father, a glover, a [illegible] in [illegible] a keeper of sheep for [illegible] of Shakespeare, being a [illegible] drama. [illegible] Ann Hathaway very early—who was [illegible] first child was born before he was [illegible] twenty-one he was father of [illegible] all that is known, he seems to have [illegible] Stratford, and went to London. His [illegible] and had been well-to-do, but his [illegible] into a state of insolvency. It is [illegible] obtained a situation at "the Theatre" [illegible] and only one in England, built by [illegible] one of a company of players. [illegible] Shakespeare was ever engaged in [illegible] went to London. In about seven years [illegible] in 1592, as being then both an actor and [illegible] verse had been recently introduced, [illegible] employed by Marlowe, a dramatist. The [illegible] written by University men, who were very [illegible] depended upon, and who wrote to obtain [illegible]

[illegible] necessities. Almost all died at an early [illegible] their excesses. Shakespeare, we know by [illegible] testimony, was "a deserving man," and while [illegible] an actor, practised writing, after the [illegible] and doubtless was useful in furnishing prologues and [illegible] to other plays to give them novelty; thus, feeling [illegible] way, he had when he was twenty-eight years of age [illegible] at least one play. To have done this in seven [illegible] is proof of his industry and ability. It was a great advantage to have such a person in the theatre, for he was always at hand, and to be depended upon, while the playwrights were recovering from their debaucheries. His life was now most active, he was continually playing, dressing up other plays, or it may be—as many did in the pressure of producing them—working with two or three others in getting a new play against a rival house. There is a record of six writers working in the production of one drama. This necessitated great speed in composition. By 1598 he had become a shareholder in the theatre, and had produced several of his well-known dramas, and was admired for his poems of "Venus and Adonis" and "Lucrece." We know that he was then associated with Richard Burbage (son of John Burbage), Heminge and Condell; and in a year or two after the whole company removed to Southwark to a new theatre which they built, and called the Globe; and there he continued till he closed his connection with the stage about 1612, and left to spend his days in retirement at Stratford, having acquired a moderate fortune, while most of his fellows and friends continued their profession.

[illegible] try to realise the life that Shakespeare [illegible] While playing regularly at their [illegible] in the daytime, actors were in demand [illegible] nights, playing at great [illegible] and in summer, travelling as a company [illegible] of the country; and except they [illegible] protection of a nobleman as his "company" [illegible] were, actors were looked upon as [illegible] vagabonds. Indeed, in the City of London they [illegible] to play at all, so they had their theatre [illegible] at Shoreditch, and afterwards in Southwark [illegible]. Shakespeare never brought his family [illegible] in London. He always lived in lodgings near the theatre. He went down to Stratford, [illegible] and family were, away from all the discreditable [illegible] the theatre, bought property there with his [illegible] his children well provided for, and brought [illegible] another out of their pecuniary difficulties, while [illegible] to London, playing there both by day [illegible] in his scanty leisure, producing two or three [illegible] each year, often under the most pressing cir[illegible] with a speed that astonished his fellows. [illegible] were to hasty productions. Queen [illegible] Falstaff in *Henry IV.*, greatly enjoyed [illegible] a wish that she could see him in love. She [illegible] for Shakespeare produced his *Merry Wives* [illegible] fortnight. The public demanded a continuous [illegible], usually a fresh play every day, for no "[illegible]" like some of the present day. There

[illegible] numerous playwrights; Shakespeare was but one of [illegible] like others, had to play in many pieces written [illegible] then. New dramas were necessary. We know that [illegible] average was produced every seventeen days. The [illegible] had to be learned, they had to be rehearsed, other duties [illegible] the theatre had to be performed, and when plays were [illegible] by public order in London on account of the plague, [illegible] so prevalent, the actors had to travel the country, setting up their booths in inn-yards, knocking at great men's doors in seasons of festivity for permission to play, applying for temporary licences to act from the local magistracy (often refused) putting up with any accommodation they could get at inns, and frequently disturbed with the roar of the customers. While it was a real pleasure to them to play before the Queen at Greenwich, and be appreciated by her, their principal occupation was to please the public. Under all these irregular, disturbing circumstances, our truly admirable national poet produced those thirty-six splendid dramas, which are our country's pride; and when all is considered they must be pronounced marvellous productions.

Shakespeare probably sold all his interest in the theatres, and retired from his active life at forty-eight years of age, to live on his hardly-acquired property in quietness in his native town, but he died four years afterwards, in 1616.

There is no sign whatever that Shakespeare contemplated the publication of his dramas. He of necessity must have been well aware of their superiority to those of his compeers. Several had been published, taken down in some cases by shorthand writers while hearing their performance,

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BUST OF SHAKESPEARE (*Profile*).

[illegible] from the acting [illegible]
[illegible] the theatre that owned them,
[illegible] enabled rival theatres to [illegible]
[illegible] to publish [illegible]
[illegible] to the Stationers' Company [illegible]
[illegible] printed had been revised [illegible]
[illegible] agreement with the Company of the Queen's [illegible]
[illegible] to obtain the sanction of the [illegible]
[illegible] had the duties of the present [illegible]
[illegible] more power) for the publication [illegible]
[illegible] King James at Christmas 1606, [illegible]
[illegible] year. Plays were looked upon [illegible]
[illegible] nothing but what was very popular [illegible]
[illegible] surreptitiously got for printing [illegible]
[illegible] much research, supposed that fifty times [illegible]
[illegible] published as were printed. It is quite [illegible]
[illegible] of those which remain, rare as they are [illegible]
[illegible] and preserved, chiefly by reason of the [illegible]
[illegible] the drama of the time, through the over-[illegible]
[illegible] taken in everything likely to have had [illegible]
[illegible] peopled a phenomenon as Shakespeare.'

[illegible] quartos, as they are called, that while a fairly perfect [illegible] £800 to £1,000, these command a much higher [illegible] the last six years the following prices of some have [illegible] *King Lear*, £100; *Henry V.*, £145; *Midsummer* [illegible] *Merchant of Venice*, £146; *Romeo and Juliet* (a fourth [illegible] *Labour's Lost*, £140; *Merchant of Venice*, £279; [illegible] £130, and a small volume entitled *Sir J. Falstaff* [illegible] *Windsor*, first edition, was sold for £385. *Hamlet*, a

[illegible] of his death, there had been no collected [illegible] of any dramatist. The great speeches of [illegible] former ages that electrified their hearers have [illegible] and while this is so with burning thoughts on [illegible] present subjects to living men, it is much more so [illegible] the spoken drama which men go to hear merely for [illegible] and pleasure. These dramas of Shakespeare, which [illegible] now immortal, might have perished likewise, so far as [illegible] concerns anything that their author is known to have done for [illegible] preservation. We do not find at that period that men [illegible] any literature as personal property; and as plays [illegible] scarcely accounted literature, there was all the less [illegible] of an author bequeathing them. In Shakespeare's [illegible] there is no mention of his plays whatever; for he had [illegible] sold them to the theatre and been paid for them. [illegible] had intended them to be published afterwards, his [illegible] ingenuous and beloved friends, Heminge and Condell, who collected them, would certainly have said so, for in their preface to the collected dramas they apologise for publishing them.

Although Shakespeare's parents were probably both septuagenarians, their family was generally not long lived; but it is very pathetic, in our full knowledge of the immense debt the world owes to this most remarkable man, to think that he should not have lived longer than fifty-two years, [illegible] have had some foretaste of the appreciation of mankind.

[illegible] copy, was bought for £300; quite perfect copies of all will fetch [illegible] these single plays were probably first sold for 2*d.* or 3*d.* at most.

[illegible] There is no appearance [illegible] allusions of this, though the researches of [illegible] over one hundred and fifty "allusions" to [illegible] contemporary literature before his death.[1] [illegible] plays received when acted, this he has [illegible] own summing up :—

> [illegible] a walking shadow, a poore player
> [illegible] and frets his houre upon the stage,
> [illegible] is heard no more; it is a tale
> [illegible] by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
> [illegible] nothing.[2]

[illegible] hardly be anything more hopeless [illegible] Shakespeare's grave than the expectation [illegible] be heard of his unprinted plays, beyond [illegible] might be greeted with when produced [illegible] whose property almost, if not entirely [illegible] were numerous other dramas which were [illegible] public taste for novelty and change, [illegible] that his plays would have had any [illegible] dramas, of which most have passed [illegible] But a remarkable concurrence of [illegible] to be preserved.

[illegible] the plays of any playwright had appeared [illegible] time of Shakespeare's death in 1616. In [illegible]

[illegible] Society's "Centurie of Praise," and "Further [illegible]

[2] *Macbeth*, act v., scene 5.

[illegible] been made, and there has not been found a single [illegible] has long been concluded that all have perished; [illegible] original MS. dramas of the period, that there are only [illegible] dramas, and some fragments of others, almost all [illegible]

[illegible] Ben Jonson, having arranged with the [illegible] published ten of them in a volume, entitled [illegible] *Benjamin Jonson.* Such an unusual occurrence [illegible] some stir among the players, who had a laugh at Ben's [illegible] for calling his plays his "Workes." He also gave [illegible] of the players who played them, among them we find [illegible]speare, and others of his friends, as Burbage and [illegible]dell. It would be quite natural for the players who knew [illegible] qualities of the dramas better than any, to say "If Ben Jonson's plays are worth publishing, surely Will Shakespeare's [illegible]serve it more, since not only are they much better, but [illegible]ere are a great many more of them." Their author was, however, dead. He would have been the proper person to [illegible]nge with the proprietors of the theatre, as Ben did, and [illegible] one else could be expected to go to the trouble, for the proprietors of the Globe were not likely to agree to give other rival theatres their valuable property by publication; and then who was to revise the plays except their author? But in the course of three or four years, three of Shakespeare's dearest friends for upwards of twenty years, Dick Burbage, Jack Hemmings, and Harry Condell became sole owners of the whole of the sixteen shares into which the proprietary of the Globe Theatre was divided; and being well-to-do, it probably entered into their minds that the world should know what an able man their Will Shakespeare was. They all wore mourning rings for him. He left them legacies in his will, although he had quitted the theatre for three or four years. It could not be that they expected much, if any, pecuniary profit for the publication, for Ben Jonson's collection of plays was [illegible]

[illegible] no second edition was called for. [illegible] when they could show their esteem for [illegible] without injuring any interests but their [illegible] have been something about Shakespeare [illegible] character, that those who knew him well [illegible] affectionate terms of him, and take so [illegible] to show it. Genius, evidently, had no arrogan[illegible] [illegible]cations of superiority. His fellows had [illegible] jealousy, but, as Ben Jonson said, they "loved [illegible]

[illegible] died in 1619 at fifty-two years of age. [illegible] Condell in 1598, playing in Ben Jonson's [illegible] The tradition of the players was, that [illegible] of this play had been seen by Shakespeare [illegible] in very low water, and had by him [illegible] the theatre—as well as Ben to the public, [illegible] remembered with gratitude by Jonson. Shakespeare took part in the play, and so did Burbage. [illegible] had his shares after his death, he must have [illegible] connection with the theatre until the last. His [illegible] name stood at the head of the players in the [illegible] by Charles I. to them in 1625. We know very [illegible] them. The parish books show that they were [illegible] offices to which they were appointed. This [illegible] for players were held in low esteem in the [illegible] very puritanic and inveighed strongly against [illegible] We find that Condell played with Burbage in [illegible] and Fletcher's dramas, as doubtless Shakespeare [illegible] their early plays. Condell lived in the parish of

[illegible] Aldermanbury, London, for upwards of thirty years; [illegible] was a sidesman in 1606, he had nine children;—but [illegible] living in the country at Fulham in 1625. In that year [illegible] plague in the City was very bad in summer and autumn; [illegible] theatre was closed as usual in times of plague; and the [illegible]gyman, together with large numbers of parishioners were carried off by it. Condell died in 1627. All that we have [illegible]ining of him is the signature to his will.

"Old Hemmings," as he was called, though he signed his name "Heminge," was probably an actor before Shakespeare. In his will he describes himself "Citizen and Grocer." He also lived in the parish of St. Mary for forty-two years. His business was doubtless managed by his wife, as was customary. It was unusual for players to live far off the theatres. Aldermanbury was a convenient distance from the "Theatre" at Shoreditch, where they acted before the theatre was removed to Southwark, after the "Globe" was built in 1599. Heminge, like Condell, had been sidesman, and was also trustee of parish property in 1608. He had a family of fourteen children, and died in 1630. Of him we have nothing left, for, unlike Condell, although his will was drawn up while he was ill, it was not [illegible] signed, which evidently shows that he died before he was able to execute it. It was a plague year. Heminge's name was at the head of the "King's Players" in 1619, Condell coming next, Burbage being dead. Heminge took more personal interest in the finances of the theatre, for his name appears as the receiver of payments in the warrants issued for sums of money for performances before the Court.

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THE FAME OF SHAKESPEARE
RESTS ON HIS INCOMPARABLE DRAMAS.
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE EVER
INTENDED TO PUBLISH THEM
AND HIS PREMATURE DEATH IN 1616
MADE THIS THE INTEREST OF NO ONE BUT
HEMINGE AND CONDELL
HAD BEEN CO-PARTNERS WITH HIM
IN THE GLOBE THEATRE SOUTHWARK
AND FROM THE ACCUMULATED PLAYS THERE
OF THIRTY FIVE YEARS
WITH GREAT LABOUR SELECTED THEM
NO MEN THEN LIVING WERE SO COMPETENT
HAVING ACTED WITH HIM
IN THEM FOR MANY YEARS
AND WELL KNOWING HIS MANUSCRIPTS
THEY WERE PUBLISHED IN 1623 IN FOLIO
THUS GIVING AWAY
THEIR PRIVATE RIGHTS THEREIN.
WHAT THEY DID WAS PRICELESS,
FOR THE WHOLE OF HIS MANUSCRIPTS
WITH ALMOST ALL THOSE OF THE DRAMAS
OF THE PERIOD HAVE PERISHED.

LEFT TABLET.

every probability that both Heminge and
the active duties of their profession
took the collection of Shakespeare's dra
do not find any trace of them afterwards
they each had two shares out of twenty
theatre also.

men, Heminge and Condell, mankind
precious volume we now call "Shake-

alone, by their affection for their departed
the task of collecting and publishing his
modestly apologise for doing what they
had lived to have done himself. They
their book, that they are but "a payre,
their gratitude . . . . to the dead." "We
them and done an office to the dead to
Guardians, without ambition of self-
to keepe the memory of so worthie a
alive as was our SHAKESPEARE."
doubt the genuineness of this tribute of
departed friend. It seems probable that
have been associated with them, had
longer with Shakespeare than either
for there is every reason for believing
the plays were produced with Burbage's
always took the chief parts in them. He
Hamlet, Macbeth, Shylock, Richard III.,
others. His consent to the publication
obtained before his death, for he held so

shares that his executors might otherwise have reasonably objected. He would therefore seem to have died soon after giving it, for the pair do not name their friend Burbage as taking part with them in collecting the plays. This seems to show that they commenced the work of collecting in 1619, or soon after the death of Burbage. To accomplish this they had to search through the accumulations of thirty-five years of play books, and select those they could be sure were the veritable works of their friend. They, apparently, got one or two plays from other theatres which they knew were Shakespeare's. None of the players of that historically celebrated company were more competent for the task than Heminge and Condell, from their long knowledge of Shakespeare, as well as from playing their parts in his dramas with him, instructed by him, and so much of his best work being done while they were associated together. They must have been industrious, careful men. Whatever plays for which he wrote prologues or epilogues, or that he altered and revised, they left out of their collection; their business was to collect Shakespeare's own complete dramas, and these alone.[1] They knew them well, for they were among the players who assembled at the taverns after the play had been returned from the Master of the Revels—who had the power to alter or strike out parts—to hear Shakespeare himself read his own compositions, over their wine, as was customary on a new play being produced; and no doubt by the experience of these practised actors, their quality as acting dramas was

[1] They left out *Pericles*, already twice printed in quarto, though much of the last three acts seems to be by Shakespeare.

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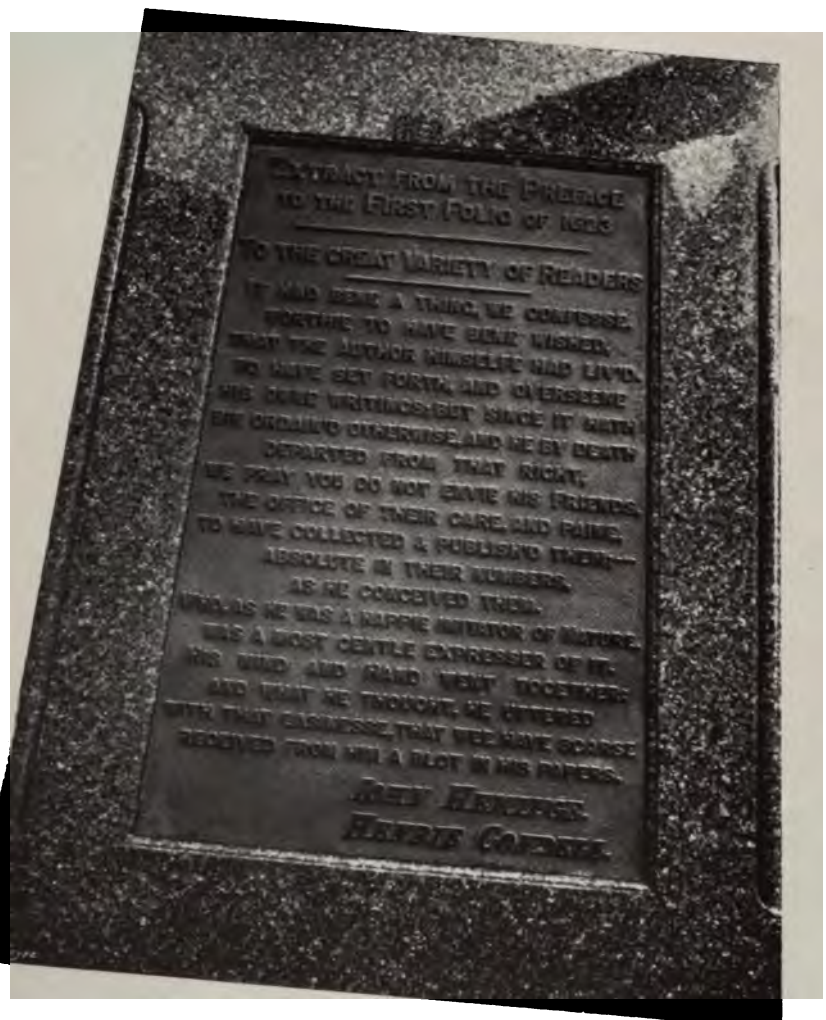

RIGHT TABLET.

[illegible] while being read. They also [illegible] other alterations, omissions, and [illegible] made to suit the circumstances of rehe[illegible] together with all the directions on [illegible] of paper—to meet the exigencies [illegible] remembered, too, the applause wh[illegible] for the first time, must have been [illegible] competent critics. And if Heminge and [illegible] from error; it is absolutely certain that they [illegible]. It is a pleasure to read their own [illegible] preface that the plays are delivered to the [illegible] them." "Who, as he was a happie [illegible] was a most gentle expresser of it. His [illegible] together. And what he thought, he [illegible] that we have scarce received from [illegible]." Ben Jonson wrote: "The players [illegible] whatsoever he penned he never [illegible] testimony of Heminge and Condell, with [illegible] writing before them, is most valuable. [illegible] of the swiftest of the playwrights [illegible] not literary men, as their preface indi[illegible] arrangement in the First Folio seems [illegible]. They copied Ben Jonson's volume [illegible] players who performed in the plays; [illegible] day, is of great interest and value. [illegible] fourteen separate copies of the plays [illegible] quarto; and some of these, before the [illegible] appeared, had been garbled, and four [illegible] It is to such as these that Heminge and

[illegible] in their preface, as "diverse [illegible] copies maimed and deformed by the [illegible] of injurious impostors that expos'd them; even those offer'd to your view, cur'd and perfect of their limbs, and all the rest absolute in their numbers."[1]

Out of the thirty-six dramas which they published, [illegible] were never printed in any form; and, with the four [illegible] copies named, no less than twenty-two of these great [illegible] first saw the light in this famous First Folio. Among them were such plays as *As You Like It*, *Julius Cæsar*, *King John*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, *Henry VI.*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors*, [illegible] all of which might otherwise have been lost to the world. Considering then, that whatever of the dramatic literature of that age has been preserved, has been chiefly kept through the research of scholars into all Shakespeare's surroundings, we may fairly conclude that even these would probably all have disappeared together but for this famous collection of Heminge and Condell[2] and the name of our great [illegible] poet would have been comparatively little known. The [illegible] of these two worthies are therefore altogether priceless.

Nor must the enterprise of the printers, who [illegible] publishers of this collection of dramas, fail to be [illegible]. On the title page we learn that the book [illegible] "printed by Isaac Iaggard and Ed. Blount," [illegible]

[1] It is considered certain, from comparing these quartos with [illegible] of Heminge and Condell, that their statement is not quite appli[illegible] quarto. One or two of them are very correct, and their [illegible]

[2] See note 1, page 11, and note 3, page [illegible]

[illegible] "Printed at the Charges of [illegible] J. Smithweeke, and W. Aspley." [illegible] Condell offered the MSS. to the [illegible] asked to be permitted to print [illegible] unknown. It was natural to think that [illegible] eagerly seized every opportunity by [illegible] to print single plays, but were prevented, it [illegible] advantage to have the whole, selected by his [illegible] whose property they were. Doubtless the [illegible] to make a legitimate profit by their enterprise [illegible] clear that Heminge and Condell did [illegible] of publication, it is equally certain that they [illegible] profit by it,[1] for they—personal friends of [illegible] strongly state that their only object in what they [illegible] the memory of so worthy a friend and fellow [illegible] Shakespeare."

[illegible] was published in 1623, in folio, at the price of [illegible] Collier says: "The book does credit to [illegible] a specimen of typography." We are not [illegible] number of copies that were printed. It was [illegible] a second edition was not called for until [illegible] when Heminge and Condell were both [illegible] the highest degree of probability that the [illegible] produced in the small parish of St. Mary, [illegible] wherever the manuscript plays were kept, [illegible] most probably arrange them for publication [illegible] they lived so near each other. Being such [illegible] Shakespeare doubtless often visited them when

[1] Page 17.

cannot but express his gr
series of plays by their publi
der as fully as he could wish of "Ho
ge and Condell." Halli
portion of his life to
peare, but a considerable fortune alas,
lunteered in affectionate
gather together the works of
monuments of his genius might, and
been for ever lost."

that the English language as it
oks than to any others, namely,
Shakespeare's dramas. The purity
Bible, as Cardinal Newman
English Church, "is like the
church; the music is always
forgotten." But beautiful as
limited in its range of langu
His plays embrace every
quence, beauty, majesty,
the utmost delicacy of expression,
life in writing and speech,
Indeed, we are told that in
"whatever was written well
the same always better
ppily both Shakespeare and the
the self-same era, independent
glish of both is the same, and both
our language.

his.

Honest and

of it. "To the

of the

age has

of our stage,

Greek poets; for he would

Sophocles" to do

He was not of an

a standing marvel

impressed by the

that

it

probability, great

depth of thought,

insight into all

eloquence, should

Shakespeare lived in,

novelties for the public,

is a continuing

polish their lines, writing

addition to correcting proofs

dramas were not

the press, and they never received

the author. It adds to our conviction

that Heminge and Condell, from their

would be afraid to do anything more

as Shakespeare left them for the

instance of such a mass of

AND HENRY

hands of any one man

[1] Although the

in the burning of the theatre, the

hope for them, their author being

had not Ben Jonson published his

never have occurred to Heminge and

's plays ought to be published

accident of change of proprietorship—they

were, falling mainly to these two

could have been no probability of publication

these men's insight into their high quality

love for their departed friend and his

wish that the world should know his

their unique knowledge of all he did

their self-imposed labour, when all

hopeless, that gave such a precious

Shakespeare to all mankind. Every

relating to it seems to make it one of

volumes we possess. Happily his friends

this work before they died, for Condell

years after, and Heminge within a further

We can scarcely imagine English literature

; yet, had it not been for these two

men—John Heminge and Henry Condell

that the world would not have had

it now possesses.

Every English-speaking people has deemed it

[1] The literary matter of Shakespeare's dramas is about equal

Bible.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
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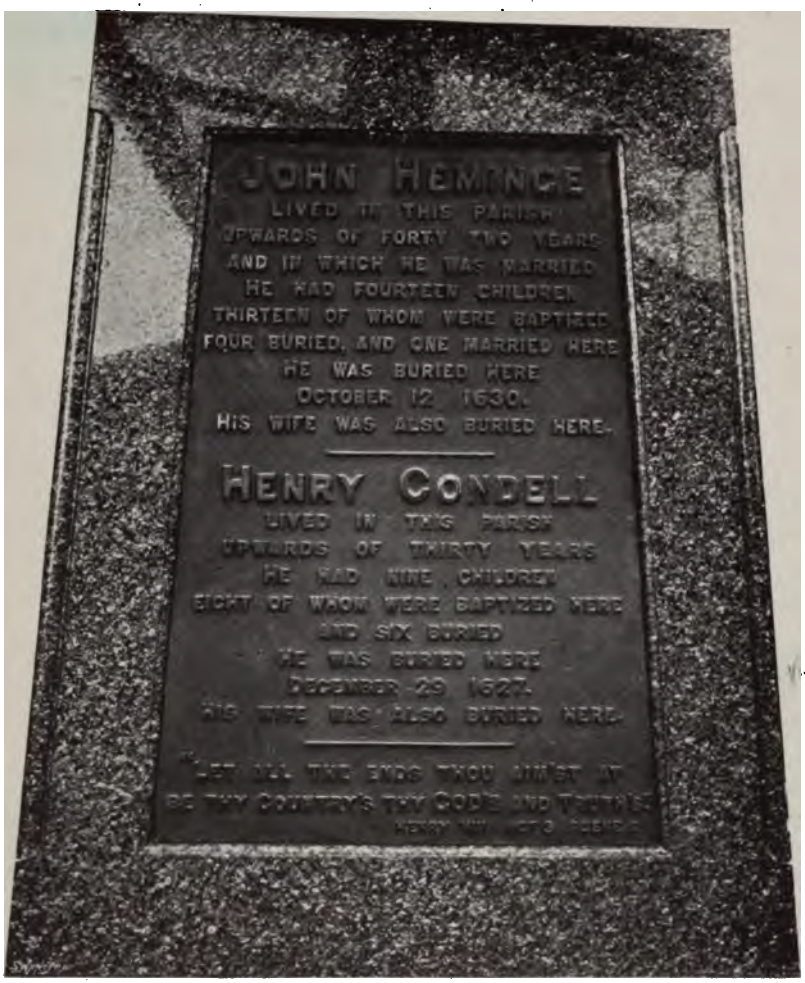
JOHN HEMINGE
LIVED IN THIS PARISH
UPWARDS OF FORTY TWO YEARS
AND IN WHICH HE WAS MARRIED
HE HAD FOURTEEN CHILDREN
THIRTEEN OF WHOM WERE BAPTIZED
FOUR BURIED, AND ONE MARRIED HERE
HE WAS BURIED HERE
OCTOBER 12 1630.
HIS WIFE WAS ALSO BURIED HERE.
HENRY CONDELL
LIVED IN THIS PARISH
UPWARDS OF THIRTY YEARS
HE HAD NINE CHILDREN
EIGHT OF WHOM WERE BAPTIZED HERE
AND SIX BURIED
HE WAS BURIED HERE
DECEMBER 29 1627.
HIS WIFE WAS ALSO BURIED HERE.

BACK TABLET.

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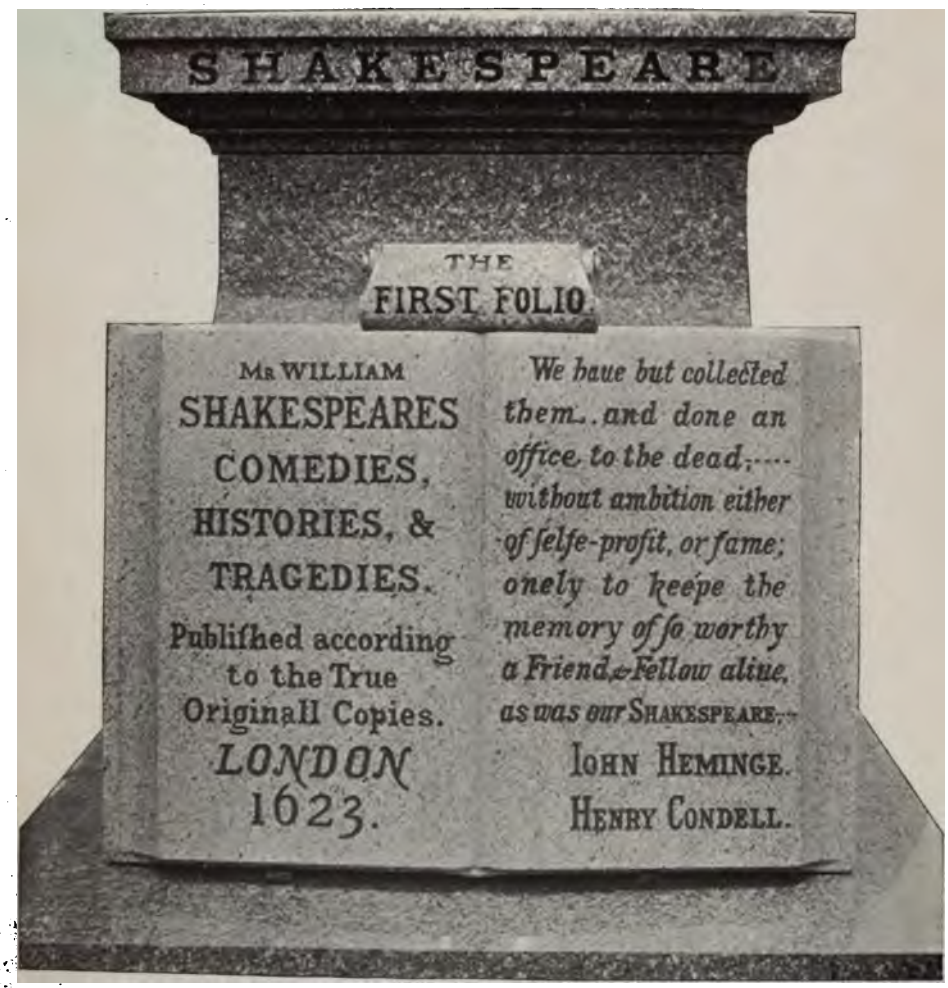

ENLARGED FACSIMILE OF FIRST FOLIO ON MONUMENT.

[illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible]

[illegible] John [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Hamlet, [illegible]

[illegible] the Virgin [illegible]

[illegible] in [illegible]

[illegible] daughter [illegible]

[illegible] waves are buried [illegible]

[illegible]ature. It is of Aberdeen [illegible]

[illegible] book of the lighter [illegible]

[illegible] first Folio; one leaf has [illegible]

[illegible] opposite leaf the exquisite extract [illegible]

[illegible] preface, already given on page 17.

[illegible] of the monument have each a bronze [illegible] inscriptions; and the whole is sur[illegible] bust of Shakespeare, also in bronze. The [illegible] C. J. Allen, Professor of Art in University [illegible]ol, and is modelled from the bust of Sha[illegible]

[illegible] Church erected by [illegible] Hall, and been by his [illegible] in the First Folio of [illegible] a good likeness. These are [illegible] in their pedigree, [illegible] produced a work of art. The [illegible] by Messrs. Alexander Munro [illegible] The design of the monument [illegible] by Mr. C. C. Walker, Lilleshall Co. [illegible] whose cast the whole has been [illegible] no likeness existing of Heminge and [illegible] more suitable to produce a model of the [illegible] publication of which is commended [illegible] for themselves. It may be noted that [illegible] bust of Shakespeare in the City of Lon[illegible] that this memorial of these two [illegible] the gratitude of mankind, will [illegible] to future generations.

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